

Nation

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Guest editorial

*Ellen Gabriel,
President of
Quebec Native Women*



Reasonable accomodation

Quebec Native Women is disappointed to see that the Bouchard-Taylor Commission report and the leaders of Quebec's political parties did not acknowledge the place of Aboriginal culture, values and language in Quebec.

The Bouchard-Taylor Commission had a mandate to take stock of accommodation practices in Quebec and to analyze related issues. The two commissioners chose nevertheless to address this problem through the socio-cultural integration model established in Quebec since the 1970s. More particularly, this perspective aimed to study inter-culturalism, immigration, secularism and Quebec identity.

The concept of accommodation practices does not apply to Aboriginal people. This is the reason, among other things, why the commissioners decided to withdraw the issue from their mandate. We do not want to question this position. However, in an attempt to analyze inter-culturalism, discrimination and identity within Quebec society, it is essential to acknowledge the place of Aboriginal issues.

The discrimination faced by Aboriginal people exists for decades in Canada, as in Quebec, and has been institutionalized through policies and laws that are still effective today. The construction of the Canadian and Quebec identities have indeed been made at the expense of Aboriginal culture, while there was no debate nor Commission established for this matter.

Last week, Quebec's political leaders expressed themselves on the

importance of Quebec history and culture, on the preservation of the French language and on the necessity to adhere to common values. What are these common values, this history and this nation that do not take account of the Aboriginal presence in Quebec?

Jean Charest has highlighted the desire of the Québécois to live together in French. The obligation to use the French language, as for the English language in Canada, constitutes a threat to the preservation of Aboriginal languages.

Mario Dumont and Pauline Marois have also expressed the desire to create a constitution for the Quebec nation, where Quebec would have all powers over the territory. We want to remind them that Quebec also belong to Aboriginal peoples, where their right to self-determination continues to be denied.

Aboriginal people are still present in Quebec and the problems that they have to face daily are current. It is thus essential to acknowledge their rights and place in the building of a Quebec society. Aboriginal people and Quebec people have led similar battles: the fight for the defence and the preservation of their culture. But for Aboriginal people, the struggle also implies overcoming the oppression caused by colonization.

These elements should serve as basis for a long-term collaboration and co-operation for the achievement of a Quebec society, and not as justification to consolidate the supremacy of one Nation over another.

Contents

editorial

Reasonable accomodation 3

rez notes

Distress Signals 4

news

SDBJ to invest in
Cree business 5

Helping victims 7

In brief 9

feature

Remembering Sam 10

First goose 12

Goose Break Roundup 15

Cree Tourism 20

2008 Pow Wows 23

Letters 27

Under the Northern Sky

Delivering a message 29



on the cover:
Joseph Jolly, Jr. with
his first goose



by
Sonny
Orr

Distress Signals

One thing I've noticed these days is the growing sight of ambulances, fire trucks and police cars, with flashing lights and blaring sirens, warning us that some calamity is under way.

Back in the day, the only siren to be heard would have been the one at the school, where we would practice all kinds of emergency procedures, from fires and floods to nefarious Communist plots to atomic bombs going off in New York or Washington D.C. For some reason, the tiny school desk was safe to hide under and was capable of warding off radiation due to the high-density metal used in its construction.

Back then, we only had to worry about the Russians sneaking over the North Pole in low-flying nuclear bombers to wipe out North America and every stranger who came to town was surely a Russian spy. So not trusting any white person was reinforced even more so. We already had the French, Scottish, English and Americans fighting over our turf for centuries, so another newcomer would not be met with open arms and complete trust.

Going back further, the Korean War and World War II had close skirmishes with our people. Some were readying themselves for departure at the docks in Fort George, when the word came out that the second world war was over. Whew, talk about close.

But during those times, hunting depended on lead, which had to be recycled. The lead shot was dug out of the carcasses of caribou and collected to be used over again in hand-made shot shells and carbine bullets. Other materials like metals were all

allocated to the war efforts, so even nails were hard to come by.

Closer to home, the present-day emergencies are usually related to man and nature, nature versus man, or man versus man. They are happening more often, so much so, that the bells and sirens are so commonplace that they become a part of our daily life. It may seem like there are more things that happen that are preventable. It seems that no matter what or how many times emergencies are avoided by prevention, they happen anyway.

The goose-hunting season (in those days, there was no goose break, you just left town) was a time when a hunter only took a gun, some shells, an axe, a teapot and some tea-leaves. He would be either paddled or walked to the hunt, and the entire day was spent outdoors without mishap. There was no bush radio or satellite phone to save the day, and no helicopter, just in case.

If anything did happen, well, the bush provided all the medicines needed to fix you. Today, an entire system to deliver you to a waiting doctor or nurse is at your beck and call. The sirens going and lights flashing, the planes readying for takeoff in the middle of the night, the oxygen mask and comfy stretcher to ensure your complete safety.

In many ways, we are lucky to have all these amenities. But in some ways, it just makes us take more risks than necessary, to take things to the edge of safety and believe it or not, we take it for granted that we can be rescued from our own mishaps.

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EDITORIAL BOARD
W. Nicholls, N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Will Nicholls

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
A. German, X. Kataquapit,
C. MacKinnon, S. Orr

PHOTOGRAPHY
S. Bonspiel, N. Diamond,
W. Nicholls, D. Valade

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Danielle Valade

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Claire MacKinnon

LAYOUT
R. Lawson

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:

The Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE

4529 CLARK, #403

MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3

EDITORIAL & ADS

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

The Nation HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

www.beesum-communications.com

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com

news@beesum-communications.com

Ads: ads@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds: beesum@beesum-communications.com

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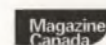
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SDBJ ready to invest in Cree business

The group has cash to spend and a new attitude towards Crees

By Steve Bonspiel

This is not your father's Société de développement de la Baie-James.

In the not-too-distant-past, the SDBJ, which was formed in 1971, did little or nothing for Crees to help bolster the Eeyou economy and foster a better relationship for Cree business. Things are changing these days.

The SDBJ released their development plan for 2008-2010 in late April and it contains a few pleasant surprises in what appears to be a shift in attitude towards Eeyou business.

"One of our main priorities is to increase the economical clean-up on the territory for the benefit of each community. That's our first goal," said Raymond Thibault, President of the SDBJ.

That "clean-up" includes multiple investments into Cree businesses that are looking to boost their financial capacity and, in return, offer SDBJ a minority partnership in the form of profit-sharing.

"WE ARE MAKING MORE EFFORT NOW THAN WE DID IN THE PAST TO TRY AND DISCOVER INTERESTING BUSINESSES IN THE CREE COMMUNITIES SO WE COULD HELP TO SUPPORT THEIR GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION."

The SDBJ's mission is to foster, develop and aid economic initiatives in the territory. It also invests in natural resource projects such as mining and hydro and it takes care of management of infrastructure, the road network and the airports, amongst other things.

"We have the capacity to invest in private companies," said Alain Coulombe, Development Director for the SDBJ. "We have venture capital for that. Right now we are contemplating investing in privately-owned businesses in the Cree communities but we can't say which ones. We are looking for those types of projects from Crees."

The SDBJ is also planning on releasing its plan in English – a first – and translating all of its documents in the future as soon as they are released.

When the mining sector dipped a few years ago, the SDBJ almost closed its doors, but a lot has changed since then.

"We are making more effort now than we did in the past to try and discover interesting businesses in the Cree communities so we could help to support their growth and diversification," said Coulombe.

"We are going to increase our efforts in the near future by hiring an economic development agent who will specifically be responsible to work with the Crees and Cree businesses to find a way to get the SDBJ more involved."



Raymond Thibault, President of the SDBJ

The SDBJ has a further Cree connection as former Waswanipi Chief Robert Kitchen sits on the SDBJ's board of directors.

Part of the reason for the shift came in 2000, when the Quebec government gave the SDBJ different organizational tools that enabled it to invest in businesses.

Then in 2003, Quebec cut funding altogether to the SDBJ, leaving the company to fend for itself.

"In 2000 the government gave us different tools to deal with businesses on the territory, including Cree enterprise," said Coulombe. "It enabled us to partner with companies instead of having to be the sole owners of newly-developed companies. We had more flexibility."

SDBJ's operating budget of \$20 million annually is bolstered by big investments (\$15 million) in risky capital funds that reap modest returns. A large part of cash also comes from investments into hydro projects and the mining sector, which has been booming in recent years.

Coulombe said that the SDBJ's new direction is tailored to Cree reality more than ever.

"We are also going to adapt our services to their economic reality," he said. "We realize that some of our services in the past worked for non-Cree enterprises, but they were not so good for Cree enterprises," said Coulombe.

"We're going to be ensuring that the Crees are adequately consulted whenever there's a program or legislation that affects people," said Grand Council of the Crees Grand Chief Matthew Mukash, who had not yet viewed the report when reached by phone.

"There has been a shift in attitude in the past few years with the Paix des Braves and the latest agreement with Canada," he said. "It all has to do with working together."

Although Mukash is happy that the SDBJ has changed its outlook on Cree business, he said there is still a lot of work to be done.

"Certainly there is a will to work together," he said. "But it's important for the Cree people to come up with their own strategy and come up with a plan on how they would like to see their territory developed. It has to be sustainable and not impact the land too much."



Once more,
the Cree Indian Centre of
Chibougamau congratulates the Cree
School Board for 30 years of vision
and effort benefitting the children and
communities of Eeyouch.
Here's to the next thirty!

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Helping victims of crime

news

A Crime Victims Assistance Centre is coming to Eeyou Istchee

By Steve Bonspiel

Victims of crime in Eeyou Istchee will soon be able to reach for help close by. Two regional Crime Victims Assistance Centres (CAVAC) have been announced with joint operational funding to be located in the Cree territory.

CAVAC made the announcement in late May that \$336,669 was to be donated annually to help with operating costs.

The Grand Council of the Crees agreed to pony up the same amount from the justice fund to bring the number to help victims of crime close to \$700,000.

"We offer services on two levels: to help victims overcome the physical, psychological and social consequences of a crime, and to advocate on their behalf to help them obtain compensation for the harm suffered," Karen Lasanté, a media relations representative for the Montreal CAVAC centre, told *the Nation* in an article published two years ago.

"Each CAVAC is a community organization that delivers specialized services to persons of all ages who are crime victims or witnesses and to their family, regardless of whether the perpetrator of the crime has been identified, arrested, prosecuted or convicted. These services are confidential and free of all charges," she said.

In the past, Crees have been able to access these services, but now the plan is to build a regional office on the coast and inland to better serve the needs of all Eeyouch.

"THERE'S GOING TO BE DIRECT SERVICES GIVEN TO THE VICTIMS INSTEAD OF HAVING TO GO THROUGH OTHER SERVICES LIKE THE CREE HEALTH BOARD."

It is expected the new facilities will be called Cree CAVAC or CAVAC-Cri.

Although it is too early to say where it will be built, when and how much it will cost, Grand Chief Matthew Mukash was confident that it will help to change the way crime victims are dealt with in the north.

"The people that will work on that program will work closely with social workers and police. It's very good for our people. When I was chief in Whapmagoostui I would always be asked if there were any support for the victims of crime. A lot of people need support to recover from the trauma of crime," he said.

"There's going to be direct services given to the victims instead of having to go through other services like the Cree Health Board," he added.

"IT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE VICTIMS FEEL ALONE AND SCARED AT THE TIME. WHEN YOU GO THROUGH THAT, IT'S SOMETHING THAT REALLY AFFECTS YOU. WHEN A COUNSELLOR GOES TO COURT WITH THE VICTIMS, THEY FEEL HELPED AND MORE SECURE."

In 1972 the Quebec government passed an act to help compensate victims of crime. Then in 1988 it passed further legislation that allowed the creation of the CAVAC centres. The first one opened that year in Quebec City and there are currently 16 throughout the province.

"It's important because the victims feel alone and scared at the time," said Lasanté. "When you go through that, it's something that really affects you. When a counsellor goes to court with the victims, they feel helped and more secure. They are also confident because the person beside them understands what they're going through and understands the procedures in court."

The CAVAC centres were set up by the Bureau d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (BAVAC), which was created by the Quebec government. Ottawa and Quebec fund the project partially through revenue generated from speeding tickets.

Those found guilty in the Quebec court system are obligated to pay an extra \$10 towards CAVAC thanks to an amendment to the Code of Penal Procedures in 2002.

"The upcoming opening of the Cree CAVAC is good news for the Cree Nation as well as for the government," said Quebec Minister of Justice and Attorney General Jacques Dupuis. "Together, we will be able to work more closely with the community and base interventions on the realities it faces. Together, we will help victims restore balance to their lives."

Those eligible to use the CAVAC program include all victims of any types of crime. Victims of assault, robbery, breaking-and-entering, confinement, conjugal violence and other types of physical violence are eligible as well. The family of the victims and witnesses of those crimes are also eligible for support from CAVAC.

There is a toll-free hotline set up to help victims over the phone until the service is established in Eeyou Istchee. For more information call 1-866-LECAVAC (1-866-532-2822).

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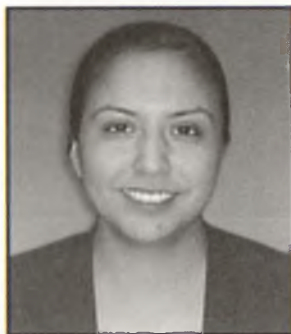
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GOING PLACES Northern



Brent Bowen

Join us in congratulating Brent on his recent promotion to Sales Development Manager in Winnipeg, MB. While working as Store Manager in Chisasibi's Northern store for the past four years, Brett and his family have made many good friends in the community. We would like to wish Brent all the best in his new position.



Nadine Garrick

Please welcome Nadine to your community as the new Store Manager at the Chisasibi Northern store. Nadine has been with the company since 2000, working in Cross Lake; MB, Rossville, MB; Winnipeg, MB; and Waskaganish, QC. She looks forward to the experience in Chisasibi, QC and getting to know the community.



Norm Howard

Congratulations to Norm. He has accepted the position of Store Manager in the Waskaganish Northern store. Norm has worked for the company for over 17 years in various communities across Ontario and Manitoba. Most recently, he has worked as the Grocery Department Manager in Chisasibi, QC. Norm and his wife Susan, along with their children, are very excited about their move to Waskaganish.

Cree Trust sworn in

The Cree Trust was sworn in May 21, at their first board meeting, with Mathew Coon Come as Chair, Ted Moses as Vice Chair, and Tania Pash as Treasurer.

The Cree Trust is the funding agency appointed to oversee the \$1.4 billion transferred from the federal government according to the New Relationship Agreement with the Cree, signed February 26.

The Trust replaces some of the federal government JBNQA obligations as the funding source for the Cree Regional Authority. The trustees do not have the power to make specific decisions about the disbursement of the funds under their jurisdiction, stressed Bill Namagoose, Executive Director of the CRA and initial trustee of the Cree Trust. The CRA will continue to decide where to spend the money, he explained.

"The Cree Trust is not a quasi-government," said Namagoose. "It is strictly a funding agency."

Members of the Cree Trust do not earn a salary, but do receive a per diem of \$30,000, annually.



Osprey Lodge Quebec Tourism Medal Winner

Mistissini's Osprey Lodge brought home a bronze medal in the "Accommodations-Outfitters" category at the Grands Prix du tourisme québécois gala held in Montreal, May 9.

The Osprey Lodge was honoured for its general excellence and exceptional contribution to improving the profile of Quebec tourism within Quebec, Canada and abroad.

As a result of its win, the outfitter will increase its visibility by joining a massive publicity campaign of the 2008 Quebec tourism winners, involving radio, television, newspapers and the internet.

An 18-member delegation represented James Bay and Eeyou Istchee at the 23rd annual celebration of the best and brightest in Quebec tourism. The event featured local musicians and fine cuisine prepared by the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec.

Four arrested and charged in Chisasibi drug bust

After a lengthy investigation, Chisasibi police arrested four individuals following a drug bust at House #4, Cluster E6, on May 16.

Maryanne Swallow, 34, is charged with trafficking and possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine.

Daryl Swallow, 30, was arrested by the Surêté du Québec in Radisson and is charged with trafficking and possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine, as well as trafficking and possession for the purpose of trafficking cannabis.

Caroline Lameboy, 29, is charged with trafficking and possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine, and possession for the purpose of trafficking cannabis.

Clayton Visitor, 35, was the last to be arrested May 26 and is charged with trafficking cocaine.

A total of approximately 53 grams of cocaine, 78 grams of cannabis and \$1700 in cash were seized in the raid May 16. The Chisasibi street value of the narcotics is estimated at \$11,600.

The arrests are part of the Chisasibi police's ongoing narcotics investigation into the 50-60 believed drug traffickers in the community, said Officer Brian Langlois of the Chisasibi police force.

Langlois estimates that the operation shut down by the four arrests represents about 5-10% of the total amount of drugs currently being trafficked in Chisasibi.

CHRD to hold Regional Career Fair in Mistissini

The Cree Regional Authority-Cree Human Resources Development will be holding the 2nd Annual Regional Career Fair at the Neoskwekau Complex in Mistissini July 8-10.

Presented in partnership with the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, the fair is designed to increase awareness amongst youth and others of career opportunities. The event brings together potential employers, industries and educational institutions to network with potential employees. Various workshops will also offer career planning and development skills for all interested.

For more information, please contact Linda Shecapio, Event Coordinator, at 418-923-2410 or Pamela MacLeod, COTA, at 418-923-2410.

Correction

In the May 9, 2008 edition (Vol. 15, Issue 13), *the Nation* mistakenly published a photo on page 7 with the caption naming the town as Kashechewan. The photo was actually of Fort Albany on the mainland side. *The Nation* regrets the error.

Remembering Sam

By Boyce Richardson

An amazing old man, Sam Blacksmith, the central figure in the National Film Board film, *Cree Hunters of Mistassini*, died May 14, at the age of, at least, 97.

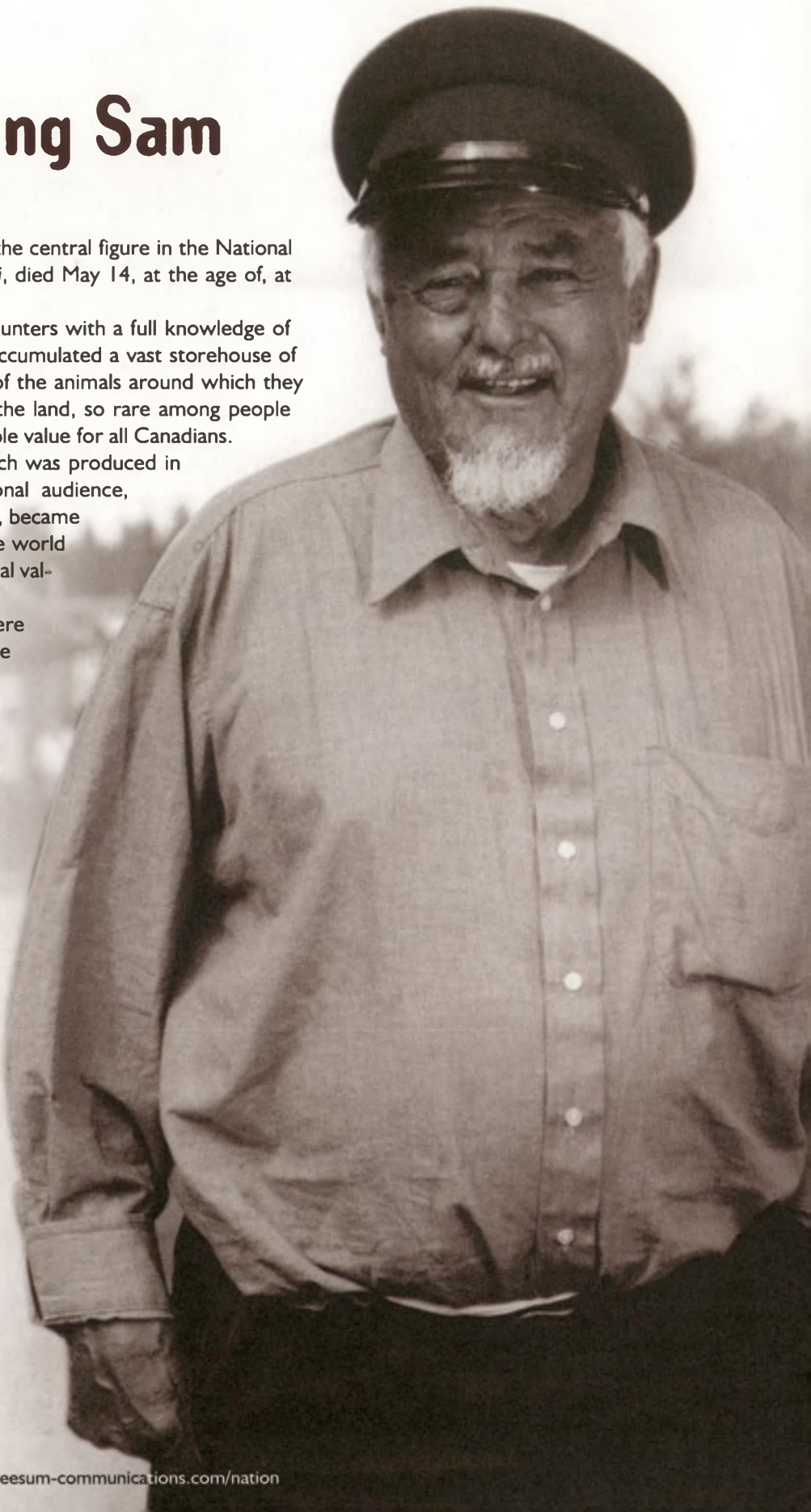
He is one of the last remaining Cree hunters with a full knowledge of the bush life, men and women who had accumulated a vast storehouse of knowledge of the behaviour and biology of the animals around which they built their life, and whose attachment to the land, so rare among people nowadays, was an essential and irreplaceable value for all Canadians.

Through the medium of that film, which was produced in 1972-74 and achieved a large international audience, Sam, with his simple but profound wisdom, became known and respected in many parts of the world as a quintessential spokesman for the central values of Cree life.

His answers to complex questions were deceptively straightforward. We made the film at a time when the Crees' ownership of their traditional lands was called into question by the James Bay hydro-electric project. Yet when we asked the question, "Do you own the land?" he didn't embark on a politically-charged statement of ownership, but instead replied, "Well, people tell us we own it. But in reality, everyone dies, so no one can predict anything." No anthropologist on earth would have thought of such an answer.

When we asked Sam, "Which season do you prefer?" his answer was equally simple, and equally expressive of the most profound Cree attitudes: "All seasons are good."

When Tony Ianzelo and I were appointed to make a film about Aboriginal rights in Canada, we went to Mistassini, where we had been before, to seek the co-operation of the community, and of individual hunters, in the making of such a film. We were both neophytes in the values and beliefs of the Crees, when we began to seek their co-operation.



It may have been because of the looming threat to their lands that Sam and his friends Ronnie Jolly and Abraham Voyageur agreed to allow us to accompany them to Sam's land, several hundred miles north of Mistassini, between the Eastmain and Opinaca rivers. The territory was large, some 2500 square miles, and we were astonished when we saw that land, pock-marked as it was (and is) with a huge number of lakes and connecting streams. On one detailed map I counted some 800 lakes (not that the Crees themselves would ever have made such a count, that wasn't their way). But Sam and his friends knew their way around that territory as if it were the back of their hand.

We flew into their camp first for three weeks in the fall, just after they had arrived, and were living in tents. We discovered them building a large wooden lodge which was intended to accommodate not only the 16 people of their three families, but also the six members of our film crew. They showed expert construction skills in taking the needed logs from the forest, trimming them, and putting them together to make the lodge, insulating them with peat moss gathered from the forest by the women and children.

With that work under way, they next got busy taking a census of the animals in their territory. They traversed the entire territory by canoe, identifying all the beaver lodges, the bear hibernation dens and other signs of animal life. This work had such a scientific precision that we were astonished, and pretty soon we realized probably no one had ever had the opportunity, given to us, to film everything done by such a camp of hunters. So, as the saying goes, from early on, we began to shoot everything that moved.

Sam, his wife Nancy, their daughter Rosie and son Malick were patience itself as we laboriously explained the shots we wanted to take, and the actions they had to embark on if we were to film them. So were the Jolly and Voyageur families, equally co-operative and long-suffering with our necessarily slow and cumbersome way of working. In some ways we were almost a figure of fun to them, for they were so used to zipping around in their canoes, and later in the year, on their snowshoes, that we were never able to match their expertise, and were never able to transcend the role – given to city slickers traditionally by Cree hunters – of bumbling white men in the bush.

Of course, we were utterly dependent on them for our survival. We had timed our fall visit to give ourselves a window of two weeks before the earliest known freeze-up so as to ensure we could get out of there. But the gods played a trick on us – the lake froze up while we slept one night, and in the morning Sam came into our tent and, knocking the frost off our roof and laughing uproariously, announced the lake was frozen over.

As a matter of fact, it was no laughing matter: we had eaten all the food we had taken in with us, and if we were to be stranded there for six weeks, would be thrown as a burden on the capacity of the hunters to catch enough food to feed us. The entire eastern seaboard was locked in under a vast weather system that prevented planes from flying. But on

the third morning after the freeze-up we heard the drone of an airplane engine that had flown at a height of only 500 feet all the way from Chibougamau. It crashed through the thin ice at one end of the lake. We had to leave much of our stuff behind to ensure the plane could take off.

I loved him for his wonderful humour,
always ready for a laugh; for his mar-
velous patience; for his keen insight
into the nature of human beings and
their connections to nature.

We returned to shoot the winter activities in March, to find the camp had had rather a hard time of it, not having found any big game (moose or bear), which would have eased the burden on the hunters. But now we were utterly astonished at the wide variety of skills revealed by Sam, Ronnie and Abraham. With monumental patience they led us to beaver lodges, where we filmed them setting the traps. Sam was almost as delicate as an orchestra-conductor as he whisked the snow gently to one side, cut a hole in the ice, and softly lowered the trap into the hole, connected to two poles, of which the mere movement an inch or so one way or the other would provide the signal that the trap had been sprung, and the beaver caught.

When we took this footage back to the NFB headquarters in Montreal, everyone who saw it was utterly fascinated by the expertise of these men. In that sense, Sam, Ronnie and Abraham provided a powerful demonstration to the outside world of the viability of Cree hunting life and its importance in the scheme of things, natural, human and animal. Twenty years later, in an account made of the work done by the NFB at that time, a producer, Colin Low, said that that one film – of the Blacksmith, Jolly and Voyageur families at work in the bush – had created such an impact as to have brought about a profound change in government policy towards the so-called Indians under their charge.

In this sense, Sam Blacksmith could be said to have been among the forerunners of the powerfully-effective outreach undertaken by the Cree people to the citizens of Canada in the following 25 years.

I honour him for that: but I loved him also for his wonderful humour, always ready for a laugh; for his marvelous patience; for his keen insight into the nature of human beings and their connections to nature. He was a remarkable man, recognized as such within the Cree community, of course, and it is well that we, outsiders, also should recognize him for the profound enlightenment about the Crees and their hunting life, that he so generously brought to us.

Joseph Jolly, Jr. kills his first goose

Submitted by Dr. Joseph Jolly

Last spring my son Joseph Seth, who was 11 at that time, had two good chances to kill his first goose. He used my 12-gauge shotgun to shoot two loners that had landed at our blind but he missed both times. They were within range and I was really hoping he would kill his first goose. My firearms license was for possession only so I was not able to buy a proper shotgun that would have been more suitable for his size. He missed because the 12-gauge shotgun was too big and awkward for him to handle. After our hunt I made up my mind that I would get my acquisition license in the coming year so I could get him either a .410 or a 20-gauge shotgun for next year.

IT WAS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
ON APRIL 17 WHEN HE KILLED HIS FIRST
GOOSE. THE WAY IT HAPPENED WAS
VERY DRAMATIC AND I DON'T THINK
I WILL EVER FORGET IT FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE.

I wrote my test back in February for my acquisition license and my son was so happy to know I passed. It takes time to process the application so there was a waiting period of at least 60 days. He kept checking the mail often to see if it had come in. Finally the license arrived a few days before we left for our spring hunt in Moose Factory. As soon as I got the license we went to Le Baron Outdoor Products where I usually buy my shells and hunting gear. In advance he had already picked out the 20-gauge shotgun and the 22-calibre he wanted. I suggested a .410 but his mind was made up to get a 20-gauge. Now that we had the right-sized gun I was hopeful that he would kill his first goose this time.

Every hunter knows that it's difficult to pinpoint the exact time when the geese will fly. We arrived by helicopter at our goose camp on April 14. It was still kind of cold and there was quite a bit of snow yet and the geese were not really flying. When we were at the blind I noticed that my son was somewhat reluctant to try out his new 20-gauge. He practiced loading and unloading the gun but somehow he seemed afraid to shoot with it. I tried it out for him and he told me the gun blast was too loud for his ears. I also noticed that it was slightly big for him because he had some difficulty to position it properly on his shoulder. However, he was quite attached to his 22-calibre and seemed quite eager to do target shooting with it. I told him that he can't kill a goose with his 22-calibre and I

encouraged him to shoot his 20-gauge but he wouldn't. I began to have my doubts about him killing his first goose.

One thing that impressed me about my son was to see how natural it was for him to fit in at the camp. He must have inherited that from his grandparents. He has a hard time to get up for school in the city but at the camp he didn't mind waking up early in the morning to have breakfast before we went to the blind. He was really excited about hunting and sometimes he would wake me up while it was still dark at night and say, "Dad, what time is it?" As far as he was concerned we went there to hunt and kill geese. One time a large flock of geese flew close to our blind but I told him they were too far away to shoot. The next thing I knew he was standing up in the blind and shooting at them with his 22. I had to smile to myself as I watched him shooting at the geese. He seemed content to be at the blind as long as he was shooting his gun.

It was Wednesday afternoon on April 17 when he killed his first goose. The way it happened was very dramatic and I don't think I will ever forget it for the rest of my life. We didn't have much food and snacks in our pack-sacks so I thought it would be a good idea to go back to the camp. I planned to cook a hot meal for us so we could enjoy our evening hunt better. We walked back to the camp using snowshoes because the snow was getting soft and was quite deep. Shortly after we ate our lunch we made our way back to our blind. My son had his 22 with him and he was walking slowly ahead of me. Once in awhile he would turn around and quietly tell me to keep quiet. He really expected geese to be at the blind because he knew that sometimes they land when nobody is there. I was not as optimistic as he was because I kept thinking that even if there were geese there they would hear us and fly away.

My son's pace got even slower as we got closer to the blind. As it turned out there actually was a goose amongst the decoys. At first he didn't see it until I pointed it out to him. He took off his snowshoes and proceeded to walk slowly towards the blind while I stayed back to watch and coach him. The goose was still quite far from us when my son took his first shot. The goose jumped up in the air but didn't fly away when it heard the shot. My son took another shot and this time the goose started to fly away but just for a few seconds. It landed close to the blind. Apparently my son wounded the goose so it couldn't fly away but it started to quickly walk away for safety. He started to chase it and kept shooting at it with his 22. There were actually two geese at the blind and I managed to grab my gun and shoot the other one.

Meanwhile, my son was still shooting at his goose and needed help loading his gun. He was really excited that he was shooting at a goose and in his haste he kept missing it. He distinctly told me not to shoot it because he wanted to kill it all by himself. I told him to get closer while I was busy filling his magazine with bullets. He must have shot it at least 12 times

before he finally hit it again. This time the goose was fatally wounded and couldn't move. It was a proud moment for me as a father to pick up the goose and then to congratulate my son for killing his first goose.

When Little Joe killed his goose I knew without a doubt that it was an answer to our prayers. My wife Sheila and I were praying for him to kill his first goose on this trip. The odds seemed to be against him but nothing is impossible with God. I remembered what my late uncle, Walter Katapatuk, once told me about the animals. He said that when God gives you animals as a gift their reasoning is taken away and they will not be afraid. I was so amazed that the two geese we killed were not afraid at all. The goose I killed kept circling close to the blind so that I couldn't miss. When I told my older brother Allan that Little Joe killed a goose with his 22 he was surprised and found it hard to believe.

As a parent one of the things I try to do with my son is to spend quality time with him as much as I can. I do this because I know it is essential for fathers to connect with their sons. When my son and I are by ourselves we talk a lot and share a lot of laughs. He has a good sense of humour and sometimes tells me some of his jokes. As his father I feel proud to teach him some of the things I personally enjoy doing like swimming, baseball, golfing, hockey, guitar playing and, of course, goose hunting. He enjoys my company and says that I'm his best friend.

Probably one of the greatest compliments he ever gave me was when he told me, "Dad, you're the best teacher." I know that the most important thing I can ever teach him is to know God and to have a right relationship with Him. I feel I have succeeded in that area.

I WAS HOPEFUL THAT HE WOULD
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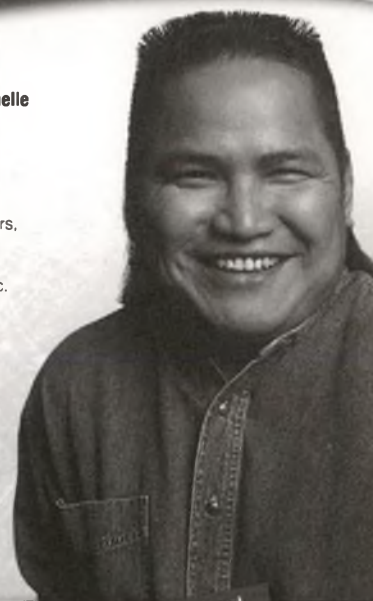
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NOTES ON GOOSE BREAK

Strange goose shot on May 12, 2008 by Bentley Mianscum

By Amy German

Mistissini

Over in Mistissini, **Don Macleod** shot the first goose, again. It was an early spring for this inland community with the snow and ice melting away quite quickly. With the water moving faster, due to an early thaw, the geese were unable to land, making kills difficult and fewer than previous years. For some camps the hunt was good, for others, not so much.

Keeping the spirit of goose break alive, the James Bay Cree Communication Society played goose calls in the background of its usual broadcasts throughout the break. The JBCCS also held a goose-call contest. **Jasmine Petawabano** of Mistissini won first prize, earning herself some handy decoys – courtesy of Cree Sports & Outdoors. Second prize went to **Clayton Gunner**, also of Mistissini, who

won a case of shells, sponsored by Meechum. Third prize went to **Patrick Blueboy** of Waskaganish who won a hunting kit courtesy of JBCCS.

Waswanipi

Around the corner in Waswanipi, **Albert** - or as his friends like to call him, Albet - proudly shot the first goose in the community. **Paul Dixon** said that though it's "never a bad hunt," the ice



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was too thin and therefore melted away too quickly for the inland people to have a stellar year. As Dixon stated, though the thrill is never in the kill, there will be fewer geese in the freezers of Waswanipi. As suspected, there was better hunting to be had around Waswanipi Lake and Omo Lake.



10 year old Christian Mark from Wemindji with his first goose killed May 7. With him is his grandmother Frances Mark

Chisasibi

In Chisasibi, **Chris Iserhoff** shot the first goose, and much like in other areas within the Cree Nation, there were fewer geese than there were in previous years as the snow went away quite quickly. According to **Sam Cox**, the geese hit Chisasibi a week later than usual but only stuck around for one week. Though there were less geese, ducks and small birds around, Cox's camp still did well, bringing in around 280 geese at their LG2 camp. While at the camp, there were six walking-out ceremonies involving four new Cree children and two non-Natives strolling across the land for the first time.

Eastmain

Larry Tomatuk got the first goose of the season. According to the CTA in Eastmain, goose break wasn't too bad this year for the community. Apparently there were bears at the Conn River camp and **Redfern Mark Stewart** shot one on May 15 and **Clayton Tomatuk** shot another the following day. **Jordan Miller**, 14, shot his first goose on his first

hunt and **Rachel Mayappo**, 12, also got her first kill.

Ouje Bougoumou

"The harvest was down. There were not a lot of geese this year. It was raining all of the time and that is not normal for here," said **Barley Shecapio Blacksmith** in regards to goose break in Ojaj.

According to **James Neeposh**, "Goose break went pretty well. There were a lot of kills but not as many as there were in years before. The weather was okay, but we had a lot of rain. There were lots of birds landing but I couldn't tell you if anyone in particular killed many."

Waskaganish

Brian Frank shot the first goose. In some areas the hunt was just so and so. According to the Waskaganish band office, it seemed as though the geese were just flying through and not stopping to linger around for a bit. Like in other communities, the snow melted too quickly. Last year the snow was there for much longer, contributing to better hunting.

According to **George Katapatuk** at the band office, where he was hunting just outside of Waskaganish, goose hunting wasn't that good. "At the beginning it was okay but the geese weren't flying as much as they usually do. They seemed to fly right through. There were strong north winds and snow storms and I guess the geese just flew up and north instead of flying back and forth and they were flying very high so people had a hard time getting them."

Like the majority of the Cree communities, according to Katapatuk, most folks did not end up going home with their usual quota of geese due to strange weather patterns and early spring conditions. Despite this, many of the men around the camp kept themselves entertained by hunting ducks and did very well when it came to duck hunting.

At the same time Katapatuk's grandson, **Keenan Katapatuk Hester**, 6, managed to get his first kill, injuring a goose with a .410 and finally killing it



Chibougamau's Bentley Mianscum

with his uncle's assistance. Later on that day, Keenan shot and killed one on his own. According to Katapatuk, his grandson wasn't eager to go home after his first two kills and wanted to shoot more but unfortunately the geese weren't flying and he couldn't continue to get more. "The boy was the talk of the camp for the entire break."

Nemaska

In Nemaska, **George Wapachee** said that for himself goose break was okay but that a different story may come from other community members as, once again, the spring came pretty early leaving expansive pools of water and nowhere where geese could be confined. "Instead they were simply flying over the camps near Nemaska. It wasn't that good of a season. Some people I know even went down south to Cornwall to a reserve there to hunt," said Wapachee.

For the community of Nemaska there seemed to be fewer ducks and geese around this goose break and from

what Wapachee said, the birds might have chosen to fly at night as they could not really be seen during the day in the Mountain Lake area. This is the way things have been going for the last four or five years. "Certainly there has been a change in the weather pattern. It's either that or the geese are just getting smarter. I kept seeing them fly on Sundays when we don't hunt," said Wapachee

Whapmagoostui

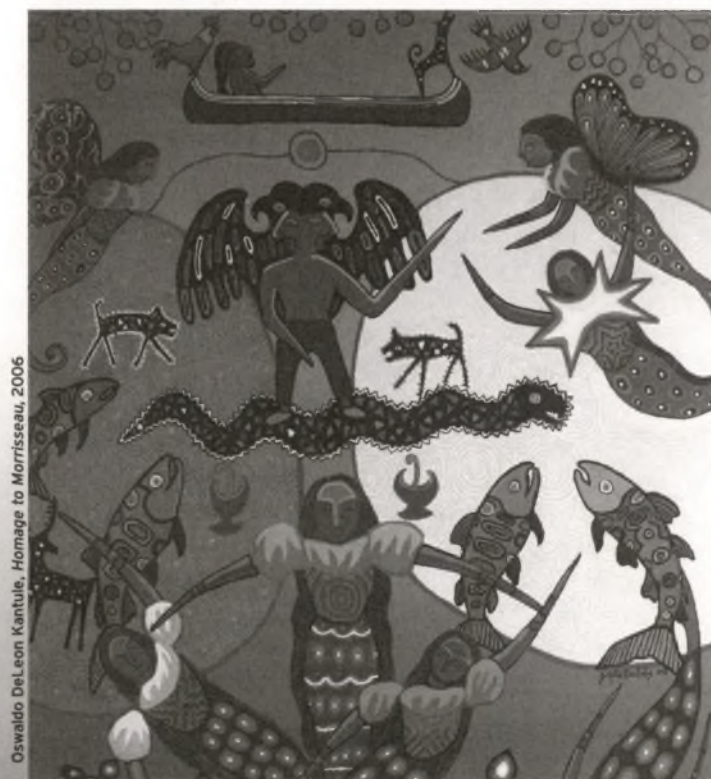
According to **Ron Sheshamush**, the goose break in Whapmagoostui was "terrible!"

The geese were flying high and they did not land, Sheshamush explained. "They were on the go and did not stop for feeding." Sheshamush waved at the birds as they passed over. Though some community members did manage to get some kills, by no means could this year compare to Whapmagoostui's stellar performance last year. On a brighter note, young **Brian Kawapit** was the first child in the community to kill a

goose — which was also his first kill. There was also significantly less snow geese on the east coast this year but plenty inland.

Wemindji

It was not a good goose-hunting year for **Edward Georgekish** of Wemindji who was at his camp with many others at Kilometre 196 on the Trans-Taiga Road. Though Goergekish said he only shot one goose compared to the 30 he had killed the year before, he and his wife kept themselves occupied by scraping moose and caribou hide. The hunting party at this camp did manage to kill about 100 geese during the course of the goose break but it was not a great year for the community as, once again, the snow disappeared rather quickly and the geese just weren't sticking around. Much to his delight however, Goregekish's one-and-a half-year-old granddaughter, Keisha, had her walking-out ceremony while up at the camp.



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CREE TOURISM

By Amy German

Between the Quebec and Ontario Cree communities there are a whole bevy of activities, festivals and traditional celebrations that go on throughout the summer months with something that will appeal to just about everyone. If you are planning on traveling to another community this summer, have a look at what is going on and plan your trip accordingly.

Chisasibi

There are three events in Chisasibi – Mamoweewow, Chisasibi's birthday celebration and the Cree Arts Festival – that locals and visitors can take part in.

Mamoweewow (which means "Let's get together") takes place July 21-28 and kicks off with an all-night dance party from midnight until dawn. The festivities include nightly dancing and singing along with a square dance on one of the evenings. There are also lots of traditional Cree games at this week-long celebration including disc-throwing, hunting games with Elders and traditional storytelling as well as a checkers tournament.

Following the success of last year's event, the Cree Arts Festival is back in Chisasibi for the second year in a row August 21-23. The big rumour flying around that Alberta's own Juno-nominated Cree country singing sensation Shane Yellowbird will be making an appearance. Also rumoured to appear at this event, particularly after its successful appearance last year, is rock band CerAmomy (yes, the band that Matthew Mukash's son is in). As this festival is all about promoting Cree art and artists, there will be free booths available for artists to display and sell their creations. All those interested can submit artwork to the festival by email at: creeartsfestival@gmail.com.

On August 18, Chisasibi hosts its annual birthday bash! There will be plenty of activities for participants of all ages and plenty of stuff to keep everyone active from softball and basketball tournaments to children's activities and all sorts of fun.

Mistissini

This summer the community of Mistissini will celebrate National Aboriginal Day with loads of traditional activities on June 21. The event will feature crafts displays and demonstrations with woodcarvings for the boys and sewing on moose hide for the girls. There will also be a feast and local entertainment.

In late July, Mistissini will hold its community gathering for a week of traditional activities centering around fishing and smoking fish, Elders' teachings, canoe racing, children's activities, a community dance and sing-a-longs. The dates are most likely July 27-August 3. The Mistissini police department will hold its annual three-day fishing contest in August; so far no date has been announced for the event.

Nemaska

Old Nemaska Days will be going on July 7-20 once again as it has been for the last two decades. As Nemaska was moved 30 years ago, residents head back to where the community was once located to relax for a few weeks and rekindle its communal spirit. There will be hunting, plenty of traditional activities and loads of activities for children at this celebration along with nightly entertainment. The celebration begins and ends with a feast.

A few weeks later, Nemaska will once again host the Cree Fitness Challenge August 1-3. The three-day event is like a triathlon but with a Cree twist as canoeing and portaging is added to the standard running, cycling and swimming. In con-

junction with the Cree Fitness Challenge there will be an arm-wrestling competition on Saturday, August 2. For more information contact the Nemaska Band office at 819-673-2512.

Ouje Bougoumou

On the second weekend of June, Ojaj holds the Goose festival, a three-day affair celebrating the goose and the goose hunt. This community event features many traditional cultural activities, a feast and different things relating to geese including hunting and target-practice games, children's games and lots of storytelling. This festival is also when the community has its walking-out ceremonies.

Waskaganish

The community of Waskaganish will once again be celebrating National Aboriginal Day on June 21 with plenty of festivities including traditional activities and games for young and old. The day kicks off with the assembling of teepees that will serve as the centre of the event. The preparation of traditional food will also go on at this event.

Starting in mid-August and lasting until September 1, the community of Waskaganish will go out on its annual Fish Bonding Run in which residents track the migration of fish up to Smoky Hill where they scoop them up, clean them and smoke them. This is an annual activity and frequently the fruits of their labour are distributed to other communities.

As always, Waskaganish is also a popular tourist destination for river tours, paddling and white-water rafting due to its panoramic view along the waterways of the Pontax and Rupert rivers. This draws in visitors from Ontario, the U.S. and even Russia. Trips and shuttles to the waterways can be arranged through the band office.

For more information on cultural and tourist activities in Waskaganish, contact Raymond Blackned at the band office at 819-895-8901

Waswanipi

Waswanipi kicks off its festival season with Waswanipi Day on June 10. The event features a flea market, vendor booths selling Cree arts and crafts, games for adults and children, and traditional foods. The booths are available for only \$20 for the day. Later on a Creedence Clearwater Revival cover band will rock the night away.

In the last two weeks of July, the community of Waswanipi hosts Chiiwetau (or "Going Back Home") at the old Waswanipi post where the town was located until 1975. During this time the community holds walking-out ceremonies, traditional teachings for woodcarvings and sewing, and puts on traditional games. There is also a feast and a popular fishing derby. At night there is everything from square dancing, jigging, fiddle bands and concerts.

Wemindji

The community of Wemindji will once again be hosting its Old Factory Visit Gathering in mid-July. As Wemindji was relocated in 1959 from Old Factory, community members return to the original site where their town once stood to harvest and smoke white fish. The event kicks off with the youth of the

community paddling in a canoe expedition from the highway to the coast and their arrival marks the commencement of this celebration. Lots of traditional activities go on throughout this cultural festival and there is plenty of fun and games for the kids.

Whapmagoostui

To kick off the summer, Whapmagoostui will host a National Aboriginal Day party on June 21 that will feature a barbecue feast and entertainment for the whole community.

It is suspected that this community will also be having its Summer Traditional Gathering near Great Whale sometime in July though no dates have been confirmed yet. This traditional gathering will focus on beliefs, values and survival skills. Traditional teepees will be set up for this event where the boys will learn trapping, fishing and hunting skills and the girls will learn how to clean and cook traditional food. Teaching preparation of traditional medicines and dream-catchers will also be part of this celebration and there will be lots of entertainment. Details on the dates will be available in June.

Moose Cree First Nation

The Moose Cree First Nation holds its celebrated cultural event July 28-August 2 which will have entertainment from both local and visiting groups. There will be a centre stage that will feature everything from fiddling to square dancing to step-dancing. For more information contact the Moose Cree First Nation of Ontario at 705-658-4619, after mid-June.

Attawapiskat

The Attawapiskat Reserve usually holds its summer festival in mid-August and though there is no fixed date as of yet, one should be available later in June. This five-day affair features plenty of traditional activities and nightly entertainment, including bingo. The main events are a canoe race featuring a 25-foot canoe paddled by 10 people involving chasing flags on a series of islands, a "royal rumble" featuring a floating ring on a river where the object of the game is to be the last person still hanging on and an aerial drop featuring a plane that drops envelopes full of cash and prizes. There are also marathon races that go on in conjunction with these festivities. For more information on the Attawapiskat event call the band office at 705-275-4440.

Kashechewan

In celebration of its perseverance through crisis, the community of Kashechewan will celebrate Aboriginal peoples, life and spirit with its first ever summer festival. Though the dates are not concrete yet, this Ontario Cree community is looking at early July for a celebration put on by their Chief and Band Council. Various speakers will be at this event along with traditional craftsman, trappers, spiritual healers, Cree musicians and comedians. There will also be sack races, log rolling competitions, bannock making and smoked geese and smoked fish demonstrations. More information on this event will be available in mid-June and to contact the town of Kashechewan call 705-275-4440.

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Barrie Fair Grounds

Info: 705-721-7689, or l.triskle@bnfc.ca

Henry Shingoose Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Selkirk, Manitoba.

1147 Breezy Pt Rd

Info: Rob or Mike 204-477-6878,

or robs@bhf.ca

Additional Info: Camping is available, wood provided for campers.

No electricity.

June 13-15:

22nd Annual Father's Day

Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Williams Lake, British Columbia

Info: Janine Alphonse 250-296-3507, or

housing@williamslakeband.ca

June 20-21:

Noongam Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Info: 613-724-2796,

noongampowwow@yahoo.com, or

www.noongam.50megs.com

June 20-22:

Rainy River First Nations

Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Manitou Rapids, Ontario. Rainy

River First Nations

Directions: 30 minutes west of Fort

Frances, Ontario

Info: Mr. Elvis DeBungee 807-482-2479, or edebungee@hotmail.com

June 21-22:

6th Annual Timiskaming First Nation Gathering of the Clans Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Timiskaming, Quebec.

Pow Wow grounds

Info: 819-723-5206, or

dawnish2467@hotmail.com

June 21-22:

Windsor Aboriginal Festival Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Windsor, Ontario. Olde

Sandwich Towne Waterfront,

Mill St. & Russell St.

Info: 519-977-7782, or

mnaahdee@namerind.on.ca

June 21-22:

Henvey Inlet 5th Annual Traditional Pow Wow.

Location: Pickerel, Ontario. Henvey Inlet

First Nation

Info: 705-857-0957, or

hifnpowwow@gmail.com

June 26-29:

17th Annual Eskasoni First Nation Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Cape Breton, Quebec. Pow

Wow grounds

Info: 902-379-2073, or

www.eskasoni.bc.ns.ca lee_jown@hotmail.com



June 27-29:

Gold Eagle Casino 11th Annual Sakicawasihk Contest Pow Wow

Location: North Battleford,

Saskatchewan.

North Battleford Civic Centre

Info: 306-446-3833

June 27-29:

Sakimay First Nation Contest Pow Wow

Location: Sakimay, Saskatchewan.

Sakimay Grounds

Info: 306-697-2831

July

Canada Day - Long weekend:

Conneriver Pow Wow

Location: Conneriver, Newfoundland

Info: Cleen Lambert 709-882-2470

July 4-6:

Ermineskin Contest Pow Wow

Location: Hobbema, Alberta.

Pow Wow grounds

Info: 780-585-3741 or 780-585-3886, or

emily@ermineskin.ca

SLFN 2008 Pow Wow

Location: Swan Lake, Manitoba

Info: Myrna or Kelvin Mclvor

204-836-2509, mcmclvor@hotmail.com

14th Annual Munsee-Delaware Nation Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Munsee, Ontario Pow Wow grounds

Info: 519-289-5396 ext. 230, or

cdolson@munsee.on.ca

19th Annual Sheguiandah First Nation Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Manitoulin Island,

Ontario Pow Wow grounds

Info: 705-368-2781, 705-368-2198, or

chopwaidubbenca@hotmail.com



Chimnissing Inter-Tribal Pow Wow

Location: Christian Island, Ontario Pow Wow grounds

Located outside of Midland, Ontario

Info: 705-247-2900,

chimnissingpowwow@hotmail.com , or
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=20664221250&ref=mf>

Cost: one day: \$3 per person; \$10 per family; weekend: \$5 per person; \$15 per family; vendors: \$25 per day; or \$50 per weekend.

July 11-13:

Ojibways of Pic River First Nation Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Heron Bay, Ontario

Directions: 3 hours east of Thunder Bay, off the shores of Lake Superior

Info: Garland Moses 807-229-1749, or
gtpm1253@hotmail.com

Additional Info: Cultural and traditional workshops the week prior to its 25th Annual Pow Wow.

July 11-13:

Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Pow Wow

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Info: Percy Potts Sr. 780-967-2225, or
<http://alexisnakotasious.com>

July 12-13:

18th Annual Echoes of a Proud Nation Contest Pow Wow

Location: Kahnawake, Quebec.

Kahwanake Ceremonial Grounds

Info: 450-632-7639 or 450-632-8667,
www.kahnawakepowwow.com or
info@kahnawakepowwow.com

July 18-20:

Eel Ground First Nation Natoaganeg Pow Wow

Location: Eel Ground, New Brunswick

Info: Howard McKay 506-627-4600,
eelgroundfirstnation@nb.aibn.com, or
http://www.gnb.ca/0016/PDF/2008_POW_WOW-e.pdf

Additional Info: fireworks on Saturday night

July 18-20:

Khowutzun Warmland Intertribal Contest Pow Wow

Location: Duncan, British Columbia. 5574 River Rd.

Directions: Google MapQuest for directions or follow signs from highways
Info: Lester Joe, Dorothy Joe

250-597-0530, or lejdej@hotmail.com
MC: Murray "MUZZ" Sampson



AD: Ernie Alphones

Cost: Donation at gate

Additional Info: All proceeds go towards Pow Wow contestants. Camp site available.

July 19:

Squilax Contest Pow Wow

Location: Squilax, British Columbia

Directions: Just outside of Chase

Info: Joan 250-679-3203

July 19-20:

Mississauga First Nation Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Blind River, Ontario. Hwy 557 along the shores of the Blind River

Info: Patty-Sue Daybutch/Linda Daybutch 705-356-1621, or

ps_daybutch@hotmail.com

Additional Info: Rustic camping available. Family Dance on Saturday night.

July 25-26:

Anishnabe Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Val-d'Or, Quebec

Info: Marlene Jerome at 819-736-4501, or
mjerome_cnals@yahoo.ca

July 26-27:

29th Annual Champion of Champions Contest Pow Wow

Location: Ohsweken, Ontario. Chiefswood Park

Info: 866-393-3001, 515-455-4061, 519-758-5444, www.grpowwow.com or
info@grpowwow.com

July 29-31:

Misipawistik Oskatisak Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Grand Rapids, Manitoba

Info: Sandra Cook 204-639-2533, or
brownthunderbird99@hotmail.com
Cost: Free

Info: Hotels available: Northbrook Inn

August

August 1-3:

Opaskwayak Cree Nation International Competition Pow Wow 2008, "Honour and Memories"

Location: Opaskwayak (The Pas), Manitoba

Info: Mike or Jon 204-623-0857, or
ocnpowwow2007@hotmail.com

Cost: Free

August 1-3:

26th Annual Lake of the Eagles Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Eagle Lake, Ontario

Info: 807-755-5526, or
pitch1@mail.drytel.net

August 1-4:

Moose Hide Gathering Pow Wow

Location: Dawson City, Yukon Territories

Directions: At the river in Dawson City, you will find boats going to our sacred gathering ground, Moosehide Village
Info: Tr'ondek Hwech'in Government 867-993-7100. Check for dates before coming, in case of change.

August 2-3:

16th Annual Listuguj Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Listuguj, Quebec, Moffet's Landing

Info: 418-788-3278 or 418-788-5707

August 2-4:

48th Annual Wikwemikong Contest Pow Wow

Location: Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Thunderbird Park

Info: 705-859-2385,
www.wikwemikongheritage.org or
cbell@wikwemikongheritage.org

August 8-10:

Chisasibi Annual Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Chisasibi, Quebec

Info: Nellie Bobbish, 819-855-2878 x309
August 8-10:

Genaabaajing Contest Pow Wow

Location: Culter, Ontario,
Pow Wow grounds
Info: 705-844-2418

August 9-10:

**39th Annual Saugeen First Nation
Contest Pow Wow**

Location: Saugeen First Nation, Ontario.
James Mason Centre
Info: 519-797-1224, 519-797-2781,
www.saugeenfirstnation.com, or
jkewagishig@saugeenfirstnation.ca
August 9-10:

**Temagami First Nation Traditional
Pow Wow**

Location: Temagami, Ontario. Temagami
Arena Ball Park
Info: Jamie Saville 705-237-8507, Michelle
Twain 705-237-8237,
michelle_twain@hotmail.com, Temagami
First Nation, (705)237-8943,
www.temagamifirstnation.ca
August 12-14:

**Cowessess First Nations Traditional
Pow Wow**

Location: Cowessess, Saskatchewan. Pow
Wow grounds
Info: 306-696-3324, 306-696-7516, or
redwood_luana@hotmail.com
Host Drum: Crooked Lake
August 15-16:

**Squianny 2nd Annual Traditional
Gathering**

Location: Nicoment IR 1, British
Columbia. Nicomen Band Hall
Directions: Highway 1, 17 km from
Lytton, BC or W. Spences Bridge,
Nicoamen River
Info: Angela Adams/Richard Jackson Jr.
250-455-2514, or nicomen@telus.net
Cost: \$10/entry fee per category
August 15-17:

**Ebb & Flow First Nations
Traditional Pow Wow**

Location: Ebb and Flow, Manitoba. Pow
Wow grounds
Info: 204-448-2543, 204-638-4812, or
budgie02@mts.net
August 15-17:

25th Annual Kehewin Contest Pow Wow

Location: Kehewin, Alberta. Long Lake
Rodeo Grounds
Info: 780-826-3333 or 780-812-6783
August 22-24:

**George Gordon First Nation Contest
Pow Wow**

Location: Punnichy, Saskatchewan
Info: Band office 306-835-2232
August 23-24:

11th Annual Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Manitoulin Island, Ontario.
Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
Info: Crystal or Charlene Sagon
705-283-3963, or
charsagon@hotmail.com
August 29-31:

**Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Traditional
Pow Wow**

Location: Dryden, Ontario.
Wabigoon Lake
Info: 807-938-6684 or 807-938-0030
August 30-31:

**34th Annual Delaware Nation
Contest Pow Wow**

Location: Moravian Reserve, Ontario.
Highgate Rd.
Info: 519-692-3936 or 519-692-3969

September

September 5-7:

Shackan Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Merritt, British Columbia,
Spences Bridge Hwy.
Info: Karole O'Brien 888-667-2477
September 6-7:

**Georgian Bay Native Friendship
Centre's 8th Annual Traditional
Pow Wow**

Location: Midland, Ontario. Ste. Marie
Park. Hwy 12 & Wye Valley Rd.

Info: Georgian Bay Native Friendship
Centre 705-526-5589, or
gbnfc@gbnfc.com
Cost: Admission \$5- Adults \$3- Youth.
Free- Seniors and Children under 4 years.
September 6-7:

**8th Annual Akwesasne Intertribal
Contest Pow Wow**

Location: Cornwall Island, Ontario.
A'nowara'kowa Arena
Info: 613-575-2467 or 613-575-2348,
lking@akwesasne.ca or
akwesasnepowwow@yahoo.com
September 13-14:

**Six Nations Fall Fair Contest
Pow Wow**

Location: Ohseken, Ontario.
Fair Grounds
Info: 519-758-5444 or 866-393-3001,
www.sntourism.com or
tourism@sntourism.com

October

October 11-12:

Thanksgiving Contest Pow Wow
Location: Rama, Ontario. Mask Arena
Info: 705-325-3611 ext. 1298, or
robinh@mniiknaning.ca

November

November 8-9:

**3rd Annual Manito Ahbee
International Contest Pow Wow**

Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba.
MTS Centre
Info: 204-956-1849,
www.manitoahbee.com or
info@manitoahbee.com





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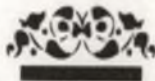
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Coke alarm

There is an epidemic that is running rampant throughout our communities. A nurse at one of our local clinics revealed that 50 percent of pregnant women tested cocaine positive. Half of the pregnant women tested cocaine positive!!!

Cocaine is a very addictive substance. It is so addictive that even though a mother knows that cocaine will harm her child, she still uses it.

Cocaine is one of the most dangerous forms of drug. It gives users the sensation that they are in total control of their own lives. It gives them feelings of total confidence and high esteem, but this effect is only to last a while until the brain's neurons start to quickly die off. Once the neurons start to die off, they are left only with sensations of paranoia, depression, anxiety, guilt, shame, auditory and visual hallucinations, and even extreme fear of daylight.

There is absolutely nothing good that comes out of using cocaine. There are also the detrimental effects that it has on the physical health of the user. Users that look to be as old as 50 can actually be only 30 years old or younger. Then there is also the high risk of heart attack.

What about the unborn baby? What is the unborn baby going through? The baby is definitely also under the influence when ma-ma uses.

Cocaine makes people feel real good when they first start. It is this feeling of euphoria that they chase. It is an artificial way of gaining a feeling in our lives that we may be naturally lacking, such as high esteem, self-worth, self-love and a sense of direction.

Every person has a very personal reason for using. Many times though, people may not know that they do have a reason for their using. It is only when they humble themselves to the truth of their addiction and then go on a personal journey can they find the core issue for their use.

We as a nation really need to start asking questions so we can get answers and move forward in all our attempts to becoming a healthy and vibrant nation.

Roger Orr

Drop the drink

Please take this as something constructive for I know many of your stories do inform us about what is happening in our communities and in the world of Aboriginal Nations. However, concerning your recent article, "Savouring the Drink" (Vol. 15, Issue 12), there is so much in the Aboriginal and Cree World to write about rather than "drink".

Our people have been hurt and wounded by "drink." It was never a part of our culture, so why do you continue to indirectly glorify this subject?

I get bombarded enough on a daily basis about drink, so I don't need it on my supposedly Nation-oriented paper! We don't need to be informed about something related to drink-

ing, as we get that every day when we walk the roads or streets, on TV, the Net, and other media outlets.

I don't want to offend anybody who may drink on occasion, but give me a break. You have so much to explore and write about that is more important than alcohol.

We can go to the dépanneur, or S.A.Q, and make our choice. There are many magazines or Internet websites that do that, so we don't need that in our paper! It is your job to inform us on what affects our daily lives, as you rely on us for your publication to be viable.

You don't need to waste valuable space to tell us about drinking; we can do that on our own, if we wish. Besides, it was never a part of our traditional culture, and many of our people are wounded or dead because of it!

Christopher Herodier

Cree Nation of Chisasibi

P.S. I recently wrote a commentary on the Washaw Sibi People. You should have printed that instead. It sure would have helped inform people on "In Our Nations' Racism!"

Get your priorities straight

I agree with Christopher Herodier, how irrelevant was "Savouring the Drink" (Vol. 15, Issue 12). Further to that, we have dry reserves and no stores that even sell alcohol around for miles. Much more could be done and said about things that matter and are interesting and important to us and the readers of the Nation.

I seem to remember an article on cocktails for your Christmas party a couple of years back, a few pages long, and I just shook my head at how absurd it was to waste good space on something like that.

I'd encourage anyone who believes otherwise to climb out of their bubble and work in social work for a while, and see firsthand the effects of addictions on our families and in our communities.

When you see a five-year-old shopping for groceries with his younger siblings because his parents are drunk or a pregnant lady passed out while her unborn fetus kicks or when you take children away from their homes because the power of addiction takes over peoples' lives, then you know how much more important articles of a different nature truly are.

Cheryl Tomatuk

Thank you for your support!

I want to let *the Nation* know how much we appreciated your excellent coverage on our Week Against Racism (Vol. 15, Issues 10 & 11). Knowing how this issue is a sensitive one, positive messages are always welcomed!

Édith Cloutier

Executive Director

Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre

PUBLIC NOTICE



ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF YOUTH GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL (EEYOU ISTCHEE)

TO ALL CREE YOUTH BENEFICIARIES (AGES 13 – 35) OF EEYOU ISTCHEE

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF YOUTH GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL (EEYOU ISTCHEE) ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CANDIDATE	COMMUNITY	COMMUNITY NOMINATED	DECISION
Charly Washipabano	Chisasibi	Waswanipi	Accepted
Daniel Mark-Stewart	Eastmain	Nemaska, Wemindji	Declined
Jeremy Diamond	Nemaska	Nemaska	Accepted
Stacy Bear	Waskaganish	Nemaska	Accepted

ELECTIONS: TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008
From 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

THE LOCATION OF POLLING STATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COMMUNITY	RETURNING OFFICER	ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER	LOCATION
CHISASIBI	Preston Snowboy	Aaron Cox	Commercial Centre
EASTMAIN	Shannon Moses-Mayappo	Sheena Cheezo	Eastmain First Nation Office
MISTISSINI	Darlene Neeposh	Savanah Mattawashish	Youth Centre
NEMASKA	Tera Diamond	Patricia Saganash	Nemaska First Nation Office
OUJE-BOUGOUMOU	Leonard Mathews	Catherine Wapachee	Youth Centre
SENNETERRE	Angie Mark	Samantha Sanford	Friendship Centre
WASHAW SIBI	Annie M. Salt	Anna Mapachee	Washaw Sibi First Nation Office
WASKAGANISH	Ernest H. Moar	Jamie Joyce Jacob	Gathering Place
WASWANIPi	John Jolly	Mitchell Icebound	Youth Centre
WEMINDJI	Christine Kakabat	Krista Kakabat	Community Hall
WHAPMAGOOSTUI	Robert Kawapit	Suzie Rupert	Youth Centre

Faxed ballots will be accepted from Eligible Voters that will be outside of the James Bay territory on the day of election. For ballots, please contact the following:

Edna L. Neeposh

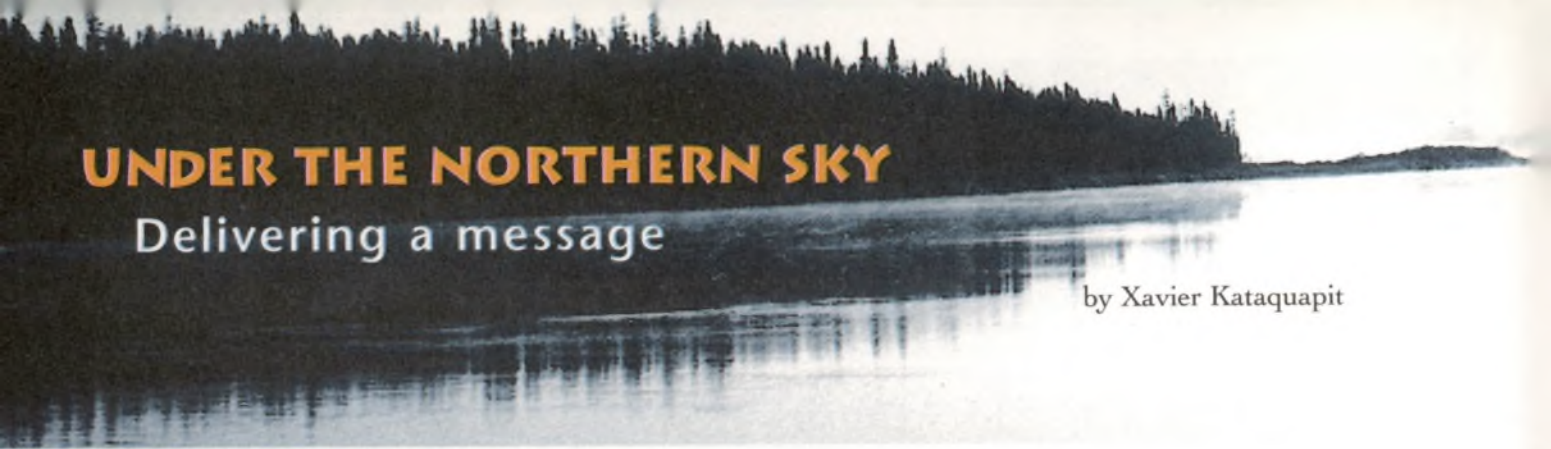
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Cree Nation Youth Council, 2 Lakeshore Road

Nemaska, Quebec, J0Y 3B0

Tel: (819) 673-2600, Ext. 327, Fax: (819) 673-2606

E-mail: eneeposh@cra.qc.ca



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Delivering a message

by Xavier Kataquapit

I recall a story my mom Susan often told me about a time when my brother Joe and I were children. It was convenient for mom to keep us together as we pretty much kept each other busy most of the time. She often used us as her messengers to pass on notes for anything or any bit of information that she needed to send to our Kookoom or grandmother. We had no phone in the 1970s. We lived about a quarter of a kilometre away from Kookoom's house and since mom was a stay-at-home mother looking after several children, as well as her household chores, she rarely had time to run over to ask something of Kookoom. She used us instead.

I don't really remember these little messaging errands but mom and Kookoom often reminisced about them. They used this story to demonstrate to my brother and me how different we were. Joe was always the one to hand over the message and do all the talking. As a matter of fact, Kookoom explained that Joe never really stopped talking during our short visits. I, on the other hand, rarely said a word and it would take Kookoom plenty of coaxing before I would provide any answers to her questions.

Communication was very different in my early days. Although it was the 1970s in Attawapiskat we were living as though it was the turn of the century when it came to modern conveniences. When Joe and I were four or five years of age, Attawapiskat was just beginning to receive full phone service. During that period when telephones were not in every home in our community, I can remember our house having a continuous stream of visitors.

Most of the time, these guests were people dropping by to give a bit of news, to ask dad for help in a hunting expedition or to inquire on some assistance for one reason or another. Mom received similar visits from her sisters or other relatives who came to pass on news or to provide us with the latest updates on happenings and events in the community. It stands out in my memory that all this changed when telephones came into our homes.

Frequent visitors called on the phone instead of coming to the house. Local calls were free with the service so once we got our phone, there was no need to go over to my uncle's house to find out when he was leaving on his hunting trip. We no longer had to run over to Kookoom's

to hand deliver a paper message as mom and dad could do that instantly with a quick phone call.

I can imagine what my grandparents' generation would have had to live with in terms of communications or the lack of it. Back then, news travelled slowly as it was passed on from person to person as they travelled over land. Many times this was not a reliable form of communication as news would either take a long time to arrive, information could change depending on the memory or personality of the messenger or it would not arrive at all.

I have had moments with my family when we spent a period of time on the land away from other families and we had no direct connection to the greater world. I can remember the excitement of meeting people who happened to stop at our camp on their way to their destination. We would pick their brains for any bit of information about the community. We wanted to know what was taking place back home and what our relatives or friends were up to. The most important subjects were always covered first. The first bit of news concerned any deaths in the community and to balance out the grief this news would bring, it was usually followed by reports of new births. Then of course the little bits of juicy gossip provided some entertainment around the fire.

Communications technology has moved ahead in leaps and bounds over the past few years. Now when our family or anyone else up north heads out on the land we can be connected. It is possible to have a conversation with someone at their hunting camp in the middle of the wilderness. Many people along the coast have worked with mining and exploration companies that supplied them with satellite phones for emergencies or to keep in touch with a main office.

The introduction to this technology has given people up north the opportunity to seek out more affordable options to owning a satellite phone. Even though they are still expensive, these satellite phones provide much more security for those who travel on the land to remote places. If any emergency should occur, help is just a phone call away. That is a far cry from the days Joe and I made our way down the street with a message written on paper in our hands for Kookoom.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS

We wanna wish a Happy Birthday to Amanda Emma Coon on June 18th, 2008. We miss you a lot in vld. Enjoy your special day. No party's lol sike. From Priscilla, Quindon, Dakota, Sequoya and Babes. We love you and miss you. On t'embrasses très fort.

This is for Christopher Stephen; Christopher, where are you? Where is Christopher Stephen??? I need to get in touch with you! I have been thinking of you! I heard you're single again!! Are you single? I used to listen to you on the radio... Where the hell are you? Can't you see that I'm crazy about you! I wish you were here with me; you are such a comfort in my arms. Happy belated birthday Christopher (you sexy thing...LOL!).

Wishing our daddy, Jesse, a Happy Father's Day! Hey dad! We are so blessed to have you as ours. Love always and forever, your kiddos, Jayden & Sky.

Happy birthday to my beautiful mom, Elizabeth Iserhoff Blacksmith on May 25th! Enjoy your special day! With all my love, Ur one & only daughter, Naomi xox

I would like to wish my mom Florrie Weistche a happy belated birthday on May 12th. 'Love you ma' -xox Carrie'sh.

To my beautiful mother, Caroline, Happy Mother's Day, every day is Mother's Day for me. With all my love, your son Jonathan Earl Ottereyes.

Birthday greetings going out to Esther Chakapash on May 14th, she celebrated her 1st birthday; to Raina Snowboy on May 25th, celebrating her 6th birthday; to George Chakapash on May 29th, celebrating his 6th birthday. Happy birthday to you all and many more to come. With lots of love and kisses, from Auntie Dina and your cousin Melissa.

I would like to wish happy birthday to my best friend & mother Janie Kanatewat, on June 15th, 2008. Mom, I find myself wondering, did I give you your due for all that you've done for me, did I ever thank you for all of my childhood memories, for helping me deal with life's stresses, for helping me accept my defeats and celebrate my successes; or for teaching me the value of hard work? For good judgment, courage, being true, the laughter, smiles and quiet times we've shared, if I have forgotten, I'm thanking you now. You taught me right from wrong. I hope you know how much

you're loved and appreciated; I hope you instinctively knew all along. I love you!!! Once again happy birthday mom! From your ever loving daughter Judy.

Happy belated birthday to my niece Marsha Kanatewat on May 21st, 2008, and happy 25th anniversary to my brother & sister-in-law Raymond & Clara Kanatewat on June 15th, 2008.

Wah! shash ah moog 25 years. Ray, you must be pretty old, nah...jk...anjabaw...lol! Wishing you all many years to come! From your aunty/sister Judy.

On May 27th, someone very special to me is celebrating his birthday: my dad, Andre Blacksmith, from Waswanipi. Dad, there's not enough words in the damn dictionary to express how I feel about the father that I was born to. Hahaha, but I love you so so so much and I'm forever grateful that I have a father like you. How old are you now? Climbing over now aye? Well 'hope your birthday was one hell of it coz dad you know you deserve it. I love you and I miss you, I wish I was there to see you blow out your hundreds of candles. Hahaha, but you're still young at heart dad. Please don't lose it anytime soon. Hahaha! Hey I'm 29; I don't blame you for feeling old! I'm almost 30, seh! Hahaha! Don't laugh too hard now aye? It's not funny Dad. Love ya Pops. XOXOX From your daughter Pamela Capissisit.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to the people who have b-days in May. First and foremost to my niece Esther Chakapash (Essie), happy 1st birthday on May 14th; to my other niece Raina Snowboy, her B-day is on May 25th; my nephew George Chakapash, his B-day is on May 29th. Hugs and kisses to you all (love u much my Essie). Happy birthday and many more to come, with love always from your Auntie Jo wherever I may be. To my friend Elisabeth Mameanskum in Kawawachikmah, her birthday was on May 19th. 'Hope you had a good one, from your friend Joanne.

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my friend Christopher Stephen. Happy birthday to you, Chris! And many more to come! I heard you left Waswanipi? Well, it's about time you did! Don't worry, you'll be happy! I want to wish you all the love in the world & best of luck, because that's what you bring is luck! I am lucky to have met you! And especially all the love from xox (someone you used to know, Chris you still got the look! oops...sssshhh ok!)

Happy birthday to my niece Keriann Longchap (Ahbookshish), on May 21st. She will be 5 years old. Happy b-day to you, happy b-day to you, happy b-day dear Keriann, happy b-day to you. I love you Keri and I miss you so much! I think about you all the time. 'Hope you have a very special b-day. See you soon alright? Hugs and kisses from Auntie Rachel and Ryan Erless.

I would like to wish my nephew Kevin Weistche a happy birthday on May 23rd. Enjoy your day Kev and many more to come. xox Carrie'sh.

Happy Birthday to Ann-Margaret Weapenicappo on May 31st. I hope you enjoy your special day! With love from Dad, your sisters, your bro, your nieces & your Nephews (Wemindjich).

We want to wish a happy birthday to a very special person who was our flower girl when we got married 21 years ago. This goes out to Rita Capassisit, on June 17th. You turn _ years old? Happy Birthday! May you be blessed with many more years! Keep on taking good care of your children. We are proud of you for being you, taking care of your kids and taking that mechanic course, wow! With love always, Uncle Ray, Aunt Judy and little cuz Karissa.

Happy birthday to our mommy Rita Capassisit on June 17th. Thank you so much for what you do for us. Love you lots, your son Raven and daughter Rayne xoxoxo

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

I would like to wish my mother Agnes Hughboy a belated Happy Mother's Day and a belated happy birthday, which was on May 14th. Thank you for everything in my life. You taught me well growing up and look where I am now: a police officer. Thank you, I love you so much mom. My little princess Tianna Love Hughboy always talks about you went she gets mad and always says I want to go and see my Gookum Hughboy. I would like to also

wish a Happy Mothers Day to my beautiful wife Karen Bosum Hughboy, you are always there for me in bad times. I will always love you with all my heart and especially our loveable kids, Curtis Bosum, Tianna Love Hughboy and Dawson Hughboy. I will always love you with all my heart. From your husband, Darryl Hughboy (Ouje) Xoxoxoxoxo P.S. I would also like to wish a Happy Mothers Day to my mother in law Anna Bosum, to my sisters in law Cecilia Mianscum, Emily Diamond, Naomi Neeposh and Weena Bosum.

First of all, I would like to wish a Happy Father's Day to the father of my daughter, Richard Matoush. You have made our lives so much brighter and more exciting each passing day. I would not change a single thing about you, you are there for us and you show that you care in the things you do for us. From your two girls, Dina and your princess Melissa.

Father's Day wishes go out to Abraham Snowboy, my father. You are there when I am down and out, you lend a helping hand whenever I need one. Happy Father's Day to the world's greatest dad. I love you, from your daughter Dina in Mist.

Happy Father's Day to my dad Raymond Capissisit, on June 15th, and happy birthday on June 21st, love always, your Princess Karissa. I love you so much Dad!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Nikki & Sylvester on the birth of their son Odell Rylan Bertie Namagoose, born on April 1st, 2008 at 7:40 am, 9lbs 5oz. Take care of your son. With love, the Weapenicappo family in Wemindji.

Congratulations to Hazel Weapenicappo & Kevin Loon on the birth of their baby girl, Tamara Clara Jayne Weapenicappo, born on May 8th, 2008 at 6:40 am, 6lbs 12oz. Take good care of her. With love, the Weapenicappo family in Wemindji

Happy National Aboriginal Day!



PATRICK DESCARREAU
QUEBEC LAND SURVEYOR
CANADA LANDS SURVEYOR



34, 9th Avenue West
La Sarre (Quebec) J9Z 1N7

Tel : (819) 333-3155
Fax : (819) 333-3126
E-mail : patd@cablevision.qc.ca



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